

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

--On page 18, line 5 after "upper section" replace "304"  
5 with --305--.

--On page 18, line 6, after "lower section" replace "305"  
with --304--.

10 Please delete the Abstract and insert the following new  
Abstract:

The invention disclosed provides an improved ear  
protection system comprising an ear protection device and  
an innovative stowage device. The stowage device is  
15 capable of inconspicuously securing the ear protection  
device to an easily accessible entity such as an article of  
clothing. The system is further able to accommodate  
various sizes and shapes of ear protection devices at  
varying distances and lengths from the user's ear.  
20 Additionally incorporated in the ear protection system is a  
locking mechanism to control the extension and retraction  
of the ear protection device from the stowage device.

On page 15, line 5, please add the following two sentences:

"FIG. 5 depicts a detailed view of the pushbutton of the preferred embodiment of the present invention."

"FIG. 6 depicts an alternative embodiment of the present invention incorporating a thumbslide instead of a pushbutton."

On page 17, line 16, please add the following sentences:

"A ratchet 110 prevents the spools from rotating in the reverse direction. Additionally shown is pushbutton 109 which operates to lock the position of the spool. Each spool may have its own pushbutton as illustrated. A more detailed view of pushbutton 109 is shown in FIG. 5."

On page 18, line 22, please insert the following paragraph:

"FIG. 6 depicts an alternative embodiment of the present invention incorporating thumbslide 601 in place of a pushbutton. Thumbslide 601 operates in a similar manner to pushbutton 109, preventing motion of the spool when moved to one side. The spool is released when thumbslide 601 is moved to the opposing side."